

The Bible Course



Explore the BIG story

BIBLE SOCIETY

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Welcome to the Bible Course

The Bible Course will help you understand the Bible for yourself.

Over eight sessions you will see the big picture of the Bible storyline – from Genesis to Revelation. Along the way you will pick up tools and skills to help you read it for yourself. Each session is interactive, with sections of teaching, discussion time and personal reflection. Between sessions there are daily readings to prepare for the following week. By the end of the course you will have confidence to pick up the Bible, read it for yourself and apply it to your life.

Enjoy the course.



Dr Andrew Ollerton



If you give someone a fish you feed them for
a day. If you teach someone to fish you feed them
for a lifetime.

Contents

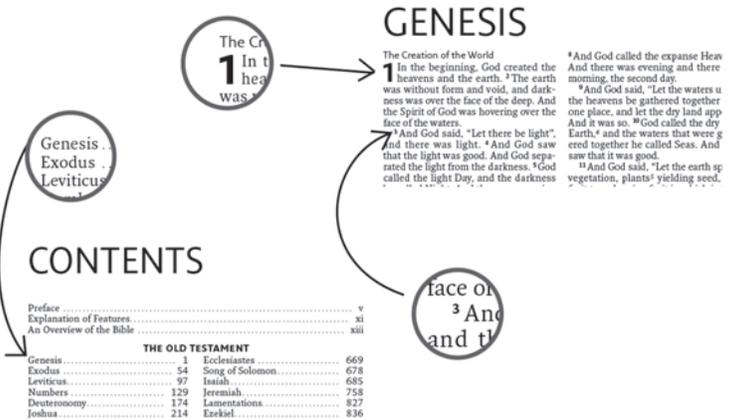
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Getting Started

Finding your way around the Bible can feel complicated initially. Use the ‘**Table of Contents**’ page near the beginning to find the title of the book you are looking for and the page number.

Once you have found the book, you then need to look for the **chapter** and **verse number**.

See the example below to see how this works. This is Genesis (chapter) 1. (verse) 3 – usually written as Genesis 1.3.





Getting the most out of the daily Bible readings

- Find a quiet and comfortable place that fits within your daily routine.
- Say a quick prayer like: ‘God, help me understand this passage, and speak to me through it.’
- Read the passage a couple of times in a modern translation.
- Consider these two questions:



WHAT? What did this passage mean in its context?

NOW WHAT? Now what does this passage mean for my life today?

- Jot down some answers to help process your thinking.
- Look for a verse or phrase that stands out to you. Write it out and reflect on its significance for your life.
- Pray and ask God to help you apply these truths to your life.
- If there is something you don’t understand, don’t get stuck on it.
- Keep moving through the reading and use a Study Bible to get help.

01

Introducing the Bible

The Bible is a library of books, divided into two Testaments – Old and New.

Together they form one story that centres on Jesus Christ.

SESSION 1





The Bible is inspired

Holy

Means 'sacred' or 'other'

Bible

From Greek *biblia*, meaning 'books'



St Paul's Cathedral, London

The Bible was written by more than **40 human authors**, over a period of **1,500 years**. But **God was the architect**. He inspired it.

'All Scripture is inspired [breathed out] by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.'

2 Timothy 3.16-17

My Notes



The books of the Bible

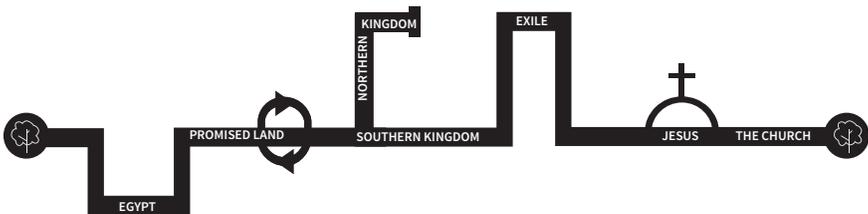
HISTORY	PROPHECY	GOSPELS
RED	GREEN	PURPLE
GENESIS	ISAIAH	MATTHEW
EXODUS	JEREMIAH	MARK
LEVITICUS	LAMENTATIONS	LUKE
NUMBERS	EZEKIEL	JOHN
DEUTERONOMY	DANIEL	ACTS
JOSHUA	HOSEA	LETTERS
JUDGES	JOEL	BLUE
RUTH	AMOS	ROMANS
1 & 2 SAMUEL	OBADIAH	1 & 2 CORINTHIANS
1 & 2 KINGS	JONAH	GALATIANS
1 & 2 CHRONICLES	MICAH	EPHESIANS
EZRA	NAHUM	PHILIPPIANS
NEHEMIAH	HABAKKUK	COLOSSIANS
ESTHER	ZEPHANIAH	1 & 2 THESSALONIANS
WISDOM	HAGGAI	1 & 2 TIMOTHY
BLUE	ZECHARIAH	TITUS
JOB	MALACHI	PHILEMON
PSALMS		HEBREWS
PROVERBS		JAMES
ECCLESIASTES		1 & 2 PETER
SONG OF SOLOMON		1, 2 & 3 JOHN
		JUDE
		REVELATION

The books are grouped together by style or genre of writing. In the teaching videos, colour coding on the spine of each book indicates the genre.



The Bible is a story

The Bible is BIG – so we need to see the big picture.



- The Bible is a **unique collection of books** written over a period of 1,500 years by various authors including kings, peasants, philosophers, fishermen, poets, statesmen and scholars.
- It includes **three languages** (Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek) and covers hundreds of controversial subjects. Yet it has a harmony and continuity from Genesis to Revelation.
- The God of the Bible is not a remote, unknowable divine force, but a **loving God** with whom ordinary people develop personal relationships.



The Bible needs interpreting

The Bible is OLD – so we need some coaching to apply it.

Take a text out of context, and we're left with a con.

Ask two questions:

WHAT – What did it mean in its original context?

NOW WHAT – Now what does this passage mean for my life today?

Now What?

OUR CULTURE

If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.'

John 13.14

BIBLE CULTURE

What?



Discussion Time



Pause the video for 25 minutes.

- What surprised or impressed you about the influence of the Bible on our world?
- Have you ever tried reading the Bible? How did you find it?
- What are you hoping to get out of The Bible Course?
- What do you make of the claim that the Bible is 'inspired by God'?



Restart the video and move on to PART 2.